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Poverty eradication

MNE–SI speaking points for 2nd meeting of OWG SDGs

- Poverty eradication is marked as one of the most pressing challenges of our time. However statistics show that MDG goal to halve the number of people, living in extreme poverty, have been achieved, differences among regions and states and even within states, irrespective of their level of development, remain and in many cases they are increasing.
- We reaffirm the commitment to the Millennium Declaration and the Outcome document of the 2010 Summit on the MDGs. All efforts should be made to help achieve the MDGs by their target year 2015.
- Poverty is an inequality issue. Latest reports (e.g. OECD report "Divided We Stand: Why Inequality Keeps Rising" from December 2012) show that global trend is growing inequality. If we want to tackle poverty effectively, we need to address root causes of poverty, including growing inequalities in income distribution, role of environmental degradation, access to education, etc.
- When building the future overarching post-2015 framework, poverty eradication should remain a core priority, but it needs to be considered holistically and a part of an integrated agenda. For poverty to be truly eradicated, its multidimensional nature, relation to income generation, the access to education, health, social services and clean environment as well as management of natural resources, has to be taken into consideration. This understanding of poverty should be reflected in all relevant SDGs.
- In this regard we would like to underline some important aspects which the SDGs should address, also with a view towards an overarching post-2015 framework:
 - We believe that future poverty eradication efforts and the overarching post-2015 framework as a whole should incorporate a human rights-based approach, and we stress the importance of the respect for human rights as the basis for establishing mutual responsibility for global, sustainable development.
 - Particularly, we would like to stress the importance of gender equality, empowerment of women and the rights of children as important values and essential conditions for inclusive and sustainable development.
 - We highlight the significance of ownership from all countries, irrespective of their level of development in poverty-eradication efforts.
 - We stress [significant] interrelation of poverty with other challenges, especially planetary boundaries and environmental aspects. Statistics show that a large part of population relies directly on natural resources for their livelihoods. Without proper –

sustainable – management of natural resources, especially water, forests, land and biodiversity, we will not be able to eradicate poverty in a long term.

- Additional aspects of poverty not adequately addressed by MDGs should be taken into consideration. Further emphasis could be given to the issues identified in TST Issues brief on poverty eradication.
- In the process of elaborating the SDGs we have to bear in mind that poverty cannot be measured only through existing quantitative approaches, incorporated also in the MDGs. A focus on relative poverty and decent life is needed with due consideration to all relevant and related aspects.